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GAMEDAYGUIDE



ONE MORE YEAR

As the youngest Lockett steps into his senior campaign,
his already impressive list of accolades continues to grow (page 4)

PARKER ROBB | THE COLLEGIAN

Senior wide receiver Tyler Lockett attempts to haul in a long pass from junior quarterback Jake Waters during the first quarter of the Wildcats' 41-31 loss to the Sooners on senior day Nov. 23, 2013. Lockett missed the catch, and K-State had to punt after taking the ball back from Oklahoma on an interception.

POWER CAT

PROFILE

B. J. FINNEY

BY EMILIO RIVERA
THE COLLEGIAN

Every athlete has a point in their life when they question their career. For senior center B.J. Finney, it was almost 10 years ago when his world underwent a serious change.

On Oct. 18, 2004, just eight days shy of his 13th birthday, Finney's father J. Finney died of a heart attack.

J. was Finney's best friend, his role model and his coach.

"I almost didn't go out for the football team the season following his passing, just because he wasn't around," Finney's said at Big 12 Media Days. "It was really hard."

The difficulties for Finney didn't stop with his father's death; he also had to deal with multiple deaths of loved ones in a very short period.

"Right after my dad passed there was a time span where life wasn't very fun," Finney said. "When I say 'my family,' I refer to people that were very close family friends that have been there for my family after my dad passed, and we went through 13 family funerals in three and a half years. There was just a time when I was very angry and upset."

As he walked through some dark struggles, he found a friend and a guide that helped him overcome the sadness and anger that he was feeling in former K-State quarterback Collin Klein.

"(Klein) was the influence that I needed to get right with my

faith again, because I wasn't a firm believer and always questioned why this would happen to my family," Finney said. "I was asking the wrong questions instead of taking the lessons I needed to out of what was happening, and (Klein) really opened my eyes and helped me get right with my faith."

Klein himself, a newly appointed special assistant for the Wildcats, pointed to the type of character that Finney has as one of the defining characteristics that helped Finney overcome his troubles.

"He is such an amazing person, football aside," Klein said. "He truly just cares so much, he'll do anything for you. I see that with his family and his other friends as well, he's really self-sacrificing."

The friendship that Finney and Klein share goes further than a normal center-quarterback relationship, going to levels that has changed both men's lives. Both see each other as family and, more importantly, brothers.

"He really is my brother, I don't see any different then that," Klein said at the Wildcats' preseason Media Day. "Coach Snyder and our program brings people together in a really special way, and B.J. and I were one of those special situations and have a relationship that we will have forever."

Stemming from his father's death, Finney's work ethic and character put him in high regards with both his coaches and teammates alike. For Finney, who is entering his third year as a captain for the K-State football team, it's

about making his father proud of the person he is becoming.

"It would've been so much easier for me to go the other way and not be who I am today," Finney said. "But, I know at the end of the day as long as I strive to be the best person that I can, that I'm making my dad proud. He's still watching and he's still here. That's the way that I live my life."

The strong work ethic that his father taught him was reinforced during high school and his early years as a Wildcat. It is often one of the most noticed characteristics of Finney to any member of the Wildcats.

"He's been a leader in our program for a long time," co-offensive coordinator Del Miller said. "When he first came in as a freshman he was a leader, he was just a no-nonsense guy here to get the job done."

The redshirt senior embodies what the Wildcats look for in Kansas.

"He exemplifies what our program is really all about: toughness, hard work, great character and perseverance," offensive line coach Charlie Dickey said. "He cares so much about this school and about what he does."

In the years since his father's passing, Finney said he recognizes that he has accomplished an amazing task in becoming a three-time captain for the Wildcats as a former walk-on. He acknowledges that he has had help along the way, whether from coaches, teammates or, even more important, family.

"I'm truly blessed to be in the



EMILY DESHAZER | THE COLLEGIAN

Senior center **B.J. Finney** will be a key player in guiding the Wildcats to another successful season.

position I am, not only from where I've been in life but to where I'm at," Finney said. "I've had a huge helping in support in family members and people who I call family, without them I wouldn't be where I am."

To this day, Finney said he remembers the promise he made his father. A promise that helps

him both honor and remember his father. A promise that he has one more season to fulfill.

"I made him a promise that if I was going to play football, I was going to take it to the next level and play college ball somewhere," Finney said. "It was just one of those things that I wanted to make happen before he passed."

Highlighting opening week of Big 12 football competition

BY TATE STEINLAGE
THE COLLEGIAN

College Football returns in full strength this weekend, and brings with it a number of exciting matchups involving Big 12 teams.



Florida State Seminoles vs. Oklahoma State Cowboys
Saturday 7 p.m., ABC

Oklahoma State kicks off their season under the lights of Jerry Jones' palace in Arlington, Texas against last year's National Champions.

Florida State returns reigning Heisman Trophy winner, Jameis Winston after the sophomore quarterback took college football head on, throwing for over 4,000 yards and 40 touchdowns.

Oklahoma State won't be picked to win by anyone outside of Stillwater, but there is hope for the Cowboys. Head coach Mike Gundy's group returns a strong core of wide receivers and a defense that is seemingly improved from 2013.



West Virginia Mountaineers vs. Alabama Roll Tide
Saturday 2:30 p.m., ABC

West Virginia could be in for a world of hurt Saturday against Alabama.

Alabama may be without graduated quarterback AJ McCarron and several other pieces from last year's squad, but head coach Nick Saban is one of the best in the business in re-tooling talent.

The Mountaineers will have to bounce back from last year's 4-8 finish quickly if they want to top the Crimson

Tide in SEC country. Senior quarterback Clint Trickett will have to lead the way for Dana Holgorsen's team with a big-time performance against one of the most dominant college programs in the last decade.

North Dakota



State Bison vs. Iowa State Cyclones
Saturday 11 a.m., Fox Sports 1

The Cyclones are well aware of who they're up against.

Head coach Paul Rhoads said at July's Big 12 Media Days that he watched as the Bison took down K-State in the Wildcats' season home opener last year. Iowa State will be vying for a much different outcome behind the arm of redshirt junior quarterback Sam Richardson.

Sure, Craig Bohl left North Dakota State this past offseason to take the job at Wyoming, and the Bison are without a number of key players including graduated quarterback Brock Jensen. However, the FCS powerhouse knows how to get the job done on the road.



SMU Mustangs vs. Baylor Bears
Sunday 6:30, Fox Sports 1

Baylor is hoping for a high-scoring housewarming party this Sunday against Southern Methodist University.

The Bears will be breaking in their new McLane Stadium, a gorgeous 45,000-seat stadium featuring a walking bridge that connects the facility to campus. With senior quarterback Bryce Petty under center, Baylor fans should have lots to cheer about.

If the past is any indication, SMU has the offense to keep up with Baylor, but it may not have the defense. The Mustangs gave up an average of 412.6 yards per game last year, finishing the season 5-7. That won't do it on Sunday against the high-energy Bears offense.



PARKER ROBB | THE COLLEGIAN

Oklahoma sophomore quarterback **Trevor Knight** stiff-arms senior defensive back **Randall Evans** as he rushes for a first down during the first quarter of the Wildcats' 41-31 loss to the Sooners on senior day, Nov. 23, 2013.



Louisiana Tech Bulldogs vs. Oklahoma Sooners
Saturday 6 p.m., PPV

Trevor Knight is the quarterback. Blake Bell is the tight end. Oklahoma has it all figured out, at least it seems.

After an impressive end to 2013, Knight has full control of the offensive reigns at Oklahoma. The Sooners are the overwhelming preseason favorite to win the Big 12 this season and fight for a spot in the inaugural College Football Playoffs. Their road starts Saturday.

Louisiana Tech and Oklahoma haven't met before, but the Bulldogs will be happy to have their leading passer, rusher and wide receiver from 2013. Louisiana Tech also returns eight starters from last season on the defensive side of the ball, so expect an intriguing matchup from the get go in Norman, Oklahoma.



North Texas Mean Green vs. Texas Longhorns
Saturday 7 p.m., Longhorn Network

An in-state rivalry? Not so much. But there's still lots to talk about heading into this one.

Charlie Strong is in charge at Texas and he's insisted that he's going to return Texas to its national glory. The Longhorns feature a dynamic rushing attack and a playmaking defense. Both will be tested Saturday against the Mean Green.

North Texas enjoyed a 9-4 finish last year, including a victory in the Heart of Dallas Bowl. The Mean Green will look to continue that success with an upset over the Longhorns.

Other Big 12 games:



Central Arkansas Bears vs. Texas Tech Red Raiders
Saturday 6 p.m.



Samford Bulldogs vs. TCU
Saturday 6 p.m., FOX Sports Net

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Waters/Lockett duo deal with preseason hype, open door for other weapons

By TATE STEINLAGE
THE COLLEGIAN

For K-State fans, the names Jake Waters and Tyler Lockett are almost synonymous with each other. You cannot have one without the other, it seems.

For opposing coaches on the Wildcats' 2014 schedule, they are already a nuisance.

The Waters and Lockett combination has been the focus of the 2014 K-State football team after the duo turned heads late last season with one stat-stuffing performance after another. With the secret out, the country waits for what could play out to be the school's most dynamic quarterback/wide receiver combination in a single season.

"They really knock down and get work done," sophomore wide receiver Deante Burton said. "You see it in Jake — I think he's harder on himself than anyone will ever be. He can throw 100 perfect passes and one will kinda go over someone's head or you have to reach for one, and he's walking back to the huddle kinda getting after himself."

Waters and Lockett are

fine with the attention, though it is certainly not their focus.

"The pressure we put on ourselves and the pressure we put on the team inside this building is way more than anyone else is going to put on

us," Waters said.

According to several teammates, Waters and Lockett have not put too much stock in all the preseason hype. It has been business as usual, which means work as

usual.

"Tyler, after a long practice, is out there stretching or out there on the jug machine," Burton said. "He caught 500 passes the other day on the jug machine, be-

cause he dropped a ball and it stuck with him. Those guys enjoy this stuff, I think, but in the end I think they're all hard workers and want to succeed."

While the seniors said

they hope to shatter the expectations placed upon them — no matter how high — both are aware that the real success of their connection could come from opening the door for the other offensive weapons.

The spotlight on Lockett should open up the field for the entire cast of K-State receivers and running backs to contribute.

"Every route (Lockett) runs, everything he does, he's going to draw a crowd," Waters said. "That might leave some favorable matchups for guys like Deante, Curry (Sexton), Kody Cook, Andre Davis. It gives them a chance to show what they can do and I have all the trust in the world (in them), so I'm not afraid to throw to them either."

That bodes well for a quarterback, who is looking to better last year's 2,469 passing yards and 18 touchdowns.

"I like sharing the ball around," Waters said. "I'm going to throw it to the guy who's open. Tyler is a great receiver and he's going to get open more times than than not, but you have to take what the defense gives you. You can't force anything."



EMILY DeSHAZER | THE COLLEGIAN

Senior K-State quarterback **Jake Waters** throws downfield against Louisiana-Lafayette on Sept. 7, 2013 at Bill Snyder Family Stadium.

Wildcats look to build off of 2013-14 season

By ADAM SUDERMAN
THE COLLEGIAN

Deante Burton remembers all too well what it was like to walk off the field in a season-opening loss.

Rest assured, the Manhattan native and his teammates are prepared to change the conversation this Saturday against Stephen F. Austin.

"Losing to North Dakota State is something that those guys, who were on that team who are still here, will never forget," Burton said. "We talk about it all the time, not taking anything for granted and not getting out to a slow start. That's something that Coach Snyder and our senior class harps on all the time. We're not going to play any teams that are slouches. You're playing college football, there's no small schools or easy teams to beat."

Following the loss to the Bison, K-State head coach Bill Snyder was quite candid over

his team's performance. Nearly a year later, his message of daily improvements hasn't changed.

"Number one: not taking anything for granted, not taking their own performance for granted, not taking their improvement for granted and not taking opponents for granted," Snyder said.

Jake Waters has been vocal in his excitement that has extended from last year's bowl victory over Michigan, but the senior signal-caller was the first to say it's important to recognize the beginning of a new chapter on Saturday.

"You've got a guy like Tyler

prove it."

For the first time since the Big 12's inaugural season in 1996, K-State will play its opening conference in the first two weeks of the season against Iowa State on Sept. 6.

Just 12 days later, Auburn (the defending national runner-up) await the Wildcats on ESPN's national Thursday night broadcast.

However, Lockett said the Wildcats are zoned in on Saturday.

"Everybody on the team is looking forward to that game, but there are times when people could have been looking forward to the Texas game last year and we ended up getting beat by a great North Dakota State team," Lockett said. "Teams are going to play to compete. They aren't just going to lay down and let you win. We understand everything we have here and we understand that we have a great opportunity when we play Auburn, but we can't forget about the other two games."

"Teams are going to play to compete. They aren't just going to lay down and let you win."

TYLER LOCKETT
K-STATE WIDE RECEIVER



PARKER ROBB | THE COLLEGIAN

Sophomore fullback **Glenn Gronkowski** runs downfield in K-State's 31-14 bowl victory vs. Michigan on December 28, 2013.

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Third time's the charm: Tyler Lockett preps for his final go-around

By ADAM SUDERMAN
THE COLLEGIAN

What felt like an ordinary, run-of-the-mill touchdown for Tyler Lockett on Sept. 24, 2011, was in fact different than any other.

One hundred and forty catches and 2,150 yards later, Tyler used his first career score as a launching pad for one of the greatest receiving efforts in K-State history.

“That was a different play than what Tyler had been doing in the past,” Tyler’s uncle and former K-State wide receiver Aaron Lockett said. “When I saw that play, I knew he had the potential to do great things. That game overall, being on the road and being an 18-year-old and making those types of plays, set him up for a successful career.”

Tyler’s father Kevin, who played at K-State from 1993-96 and holds the school’s career receiving record with 3,032 yards, said Tyler is having a K-State experience similar to his and Aaron’s.

“Tyler’s living both scenarios of myself and Aaron,” Kevin said. “One, the resurgence of the program of Coach Snyder coming back and also being at another peak a couple of years ago. They were one game away from playing in a national title, so he’s got a chance to put his own stamp on the program. It’s exciting for him to be it at our alma mater. To be able to do it under the same coaching staff as we were able to participate under and to see how much the Kansas State fan base truly appreciates some of the things that he’s doing.”

When No. 16 is called, the youngest Lockett answers. Against Texas, Oklahoma and Michigan in 2012-13, he tallied exactly half of his 1,262 yards.

“Tyler has earned that respect,” senior wide receiver Curry Sexton said. “We had two Big 12 defensive backs go in the first round (of the NFL Draft) last year and several more that got drafted. To see Tyler do what he did against those teams and what he did



EMILY DESHAZER | THE COLLEGIAN

Senior wide receiver **Tyler Lockett** runs the ball after a catch for a total of six yards during the first quarter of the Wildcats’ win over the Iowa State Cyclones the afternoon of Nov. 2, 2013, in Bill Snyder Family Stadium.

in the bowl game against a good secondary in Michigan, Tyler has earned everything good that is said about him. He’s special.”

“What I’m more happy about for Tyler is he has always taken on the challenge of following in our footsteps. In every one of those situations, he has created his own set of footprints.”

KEVIN LOCKETT
TYLER LOCKETT’S FATHER

Prior to his playing career, the Lockett name wasn’t new to Texas cornerback Quandre Diggs. His older brother Quentin Jammer also played at Texas (1997-2001)

while Tyler’s uncle Aaron was at K-State.

After seeing Tyler post 13 catches for 237 yards last season against the Longhorns,

whenever they need him to. He can work in the slot, he can work outside and he can do a little bit of everything. That’s what makes him such a hard cover. I’m sure he’s grown this offseason and that’s going to make him even better. He brings so many difficult matchups and he’s a great special teams guy too. You can respect all the hard work he does and I have a lot of respect for a guy like that.”

Former TCU cornerback Jason Verrett, who was the first-round selection of the San Diego Chargers in May’s NFL Draft, gave up only one touchdown in his final college season and he was humbled by the youngest Lockett’s precise route running.

“It didn’t take me that

route to know that he could play,” TCU head coach Gary Patterson said of seeing his top cover corner getting bested. “We had stuff in to make sure that we tried to cover him, but those kind of things didn’t happen. He’s a good player.”

TCU safety Sam Carter said it’s matchups that come against receivers like Lockett that makes him thrive on Saturdays.

“I don’t mind facing a guy like that every week, because competition brings out the best in you,” Carter said. “He’s a great player. If you don’t like playing against the best, why do you play the game? He’s one of the best receivers in the nation, not just in our conference, in the

nation.”

Watching from afar, Kevin said he is thrilled to see how Tyler has handled his career.

“What I’m more happy about for Tyler is he has always taken on the challenge of following in our footsteps,” Kevin said. “In every one of those situations, he has created his own set of footprints. He has done it through middle school, high school and college. He’s got a competitive side that wants to be compared to his uncle or to his father. He’s also wise enough to be able to understand that his definition for success is going to be different from what many others measure him by. He’s always been about marching to his own beat.”

Q-and-A with Kevin Gore: sports editor of The Daily Sentinel



Photo courtesy of The Daily Sentinel

By ADAM SUDERMAN
THE COLLEGIAN

Gus Johnson, SFA’s top returning rusher, is back this year. What’s expected through his senior season?

Gus Johnson has steadily progressed into a great (running) back at SFA during his time at the school. He’s

gained 2,224 yards in three seasons, including 1,061 yards last year. He could have a lot more yards, but he has been banged up a bit in his career.

What is impressive is he has had two big seasons while playing for an offense that has been top-heavy with the passing game. Gus is just a tough dude; he’s an inside runner who is going to get three or four yards if he can get to the

line of scrimmage and the offensive line gets any kind of push against the defense. New head coach Clint Conque will feature more of a rushing attack that what SFA has displayed the last few seasons. If Johnson stays healthy, he should be in line for another 1,000-yard year. SFA has had just one player who has had two 1,000-yard seasons. That was Leonard Harris in 1994 and 1995. Johnson is in line

to be among the great running backs for SFA, a program that has fallen in the love with the passing game in the last eight years or so.

What’s expected from the quarterback position?

Zach Conque has won the No. 1 quarterback job and he is also the son of Coach Conque. Zach Conque transferred to SFA from Texas-San Antonio. He was looking for a new school because he felt as if he wasn’t getting a good look at UTSA. When his dad got the head coaching job at SFA, Zach decided to come here.

He’s a big kid at 6-feet-5-inches and about 230 pounds. His backup is Joe Minden, who has taken some snaps in a backup role. Coach Conque just wants the quarterback to manage the offense — get the unit into the right plays at the line of scrimmage and to limit mistakes. He wants the ball to go to the running backs and wide receivers. That being said, the quarterbacks will be asked to run the football, something that wasn’t a priority under the previous coaching reign. All those quarterbacks did was throw the heck out of it. Their idea of running was an eight yard sack.

How has the program and the university embraced Clint Conque as he prepares for his first season at Stephen F. Austin?

Coach Conque has been well received at the school and community. He won 105

games in 14 seasons at Central Arkansas, which is impressive. He took over a Division II program and took it to the FCS level. Along the way, UCA won two Southland titles. His teams are well-prepared. He’s a structured coach who has a plan and will find a way to get it carried out. He felt like he needed a change. SFA needed a new coach. It was a really good fit.

Stephen F. Austin closed its season by losing seven of its last eight games. What will be some key improvements for the returning group of players?

Last year’s defense couldn’t stop anyone. The biggest improvement for the team should be the defense, because last year was just so bad. Coach Conque has brought in some transfers — one at linebacker and two at cornerback. Hipolito Corporan is a cornerback who transferred in from Utah. Conque said he can be a shut-down coverage guy. The other cornerback is Maurice Poullard, a transfer from Texas-San Antonio.

Senior Collin Garrett has had a nice career at linebacker since he came here via Kansas a few seasons ago. Justin Owens, a transfer from Fullerton College, looks like a prime timer who should start alongside Garrett. The defense has some athletic and long guys on the defensive line. They will get after you. Depth is an issue with the defense, though. I expect

the defense to be much, much better than last year’s group that couldn’t pick up a turtle trapped in a phone booth.

The Lumberjacks finished 11th in FCS total scoring offense. Where do you see this unit going this season?

The offense should be really good. Offense has never been an issue at SFA as far as moving the ball and scoring. The problem was the offense had some limitations in scoring inside the red zone. Plus, turnovers piled up with the unit throwing just about every down.

I expect SFA’s offense to be more versatile than the one we’ve watched in the last five or so years. Quarterbacks are going to scramble for yards. Running backs are going to get carries. The wide receivers are going to get their share of catches. About all that has changed with the offense since last season is at quarterback, and a philosophy of running the ball more often. The offense has the luxury of having good running backs, great wide receivers and some good-sized offensive linemen with a lot of po-tential. If there’s an area that SFA can’t afford an injury, it’s on the o-line. Talented but thin. Conque was Louisiana Tech’s offensive coordinator before he was hired at Central Arkansas. He knows how to move the football and score. His UCA team scored 66 on SFA last season. Back to that turtle.

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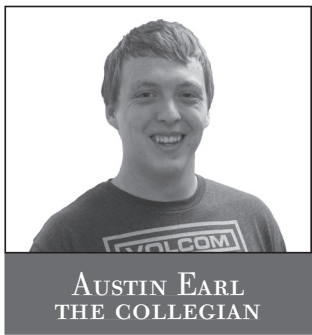
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Power Rankings: Top 5 Big 12 defensive players



No. 1: K-State DE Ryan Mueller
Mueller is the reigning Big 12 defensive lineman of the year and had 11.5 sacks in his junior season. He is an elite pass rusher, as well as stout against the run. He registered 62 total tackles with 18.5 tackles for a loss. Mueller's motor is what makes him stand out. He is a smart player who is good at getting leverage. He may not have the elite physical tools of defensive end Jadeveon Clowney, but Mueller's mental skills and effort makes him effective.

No. 2: Oklahoma LB Eric Striker
Striker ended his 2013 campaign with his national coming out party – a three sack game in the Sugar Bowl against Alabama. He has arguably the highest ceiling of any Big 12 defensive player. Striker was scouted as both a safety and a linebacker out of high school, which helps with his ability to get off a block as he rushes the quarterback. Striker is also effective against the run, although it is not his greatest strength. His speed is his most powerful weapon.

No. 3: Texas DE Cedric Reed
Reed is the perfect image of a defensive end. He stands at 6-foot-6-inches and



PARKER ROBB | THE COLLEGIAN

Senior defensive end **Ryan Mueller** prepares to sack former Kansas quarterback **Jake Heaps** for a loss of 10 yards during the first quarter of the annual Sunflower Showdown Nov. 30, 2013 in Memorial Stadium in Lawrence. The Wildcats beat the Kansas Jayhawks 31-10, bringing their current win streak in the series against their intrastate rivals to five. Mueller is tied for the K-State sacks per season record at 11.5 sacks.

weighs in at 258 pounds. His size can dominate opposing linemen and it shows in the stat column. Last year, he accumulated 10 sacks and 19 tackles for a loss. He gets to the quarterback and disrupts plays in the backfield, but Reed has not learned how to fully use his tools yet. He does not have great moves at the line of scrimmage. When he learns the technical part of being a pass rusher, he could be unstoppable. He has the size and tenacity to become a force later in his career.

No. 4: Kansas LB Ben Heeney
Do not judge a player

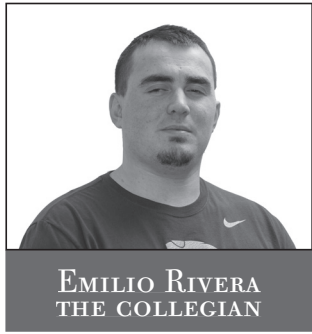
by a team's overall record. Heeney is a force to be reckoned with for the Jayhawks. He had 88 tackles in 10 games last season, along with 11.5 tackles for a loss. He doesn't get to the quarterback very often, but he is great against the run. Like Mueller, Heeney doesn't have elite size or speed. His instincts make him fly to the ball and rack up tackles.

No. 5: TCU S Sam Carter
Carter is the best defensive back in the Big 12. He has 13 pass break ups in his career to pair with his nine interceptions. His stats aren't

flashy, but he does a good job of patrolling the deep part of the field. He is always able to get into the backfield when his number is called for a blitz. He had four sacks and 7.5 tackles for a loss through his junior year. His defensive success is a result of his great physical assets and ability to read plays quickly. There's nothing incredibly special about him, but he has no glaring weaknesses.

Austin Earl is a sophomore in mass communications. Please send comments to sports@kstatecollegian.com.

Power Rankings: Top 5 Big 12 offensive players



No. 1: Baylor QB Bryce Petty
As the reigning Big 12 offensive player of the year, Petty brings an undeniable amount of talent to this Baylor team. In his first year as the starting quarterback for the Bears, Petty threw for 4,200 yards. He also owns the Baylor records for passing efficiency (174.45) and interception percentage (.007). Petty has thrown 229 completed passes without an interception, while having eight straight 300-yard passing games. Petty, who brings in one of the most dangerous offenses in the country, has one of the best targets in the conference in senior wide receiver Antwan Goodley. Don't be surprised if Petty isn't towards the top of the Heisman candidates by the end of the season.

No. 2: Baylor WR Antwan Goodley
The fifth-year senior, Goodley is best big-play receiver in the Big 12. With 1,339 receiving yards and 13 receiving touchdowns last year, Goodley was good enough to earn a consensus All-Big 12 first team selection. Goodley uses his 4.41 speed to blaze past defenders, allowing him to snag passes for monster gains and long touchdowns. Paired with Petty, Goodley has enough



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Baylor quarterback **Bryce Petty** throws the ball at Bill Snyder Family Stadium on October 12, 2013.

leverage to beat any defender, and will likely put up huge numbers again in 2014-15.

No. 3: K-State WR Tyler Lockett
The second-team All-American will have a chance to surpass his father Kevin's career records of 3,032 yards, 217 receptions and 26 receiving touchdowns this season.

Lockett needs only 837 yards, 74 receptions, and eight touchdowns to surpass the 18-year-old record.

The Tulsa, Oklahoma native will have plenty of opportunities to catch the ball with an improved passer in senior quarterback Jake Waters. The Wildcats' offense is much better with Lockett on the field because of his playmaking ability.

With 81 receptions last season, look for defenses to plan against one of the Wildcats' best option.

No. 4: K-State QB Jake Waters
The 2012 NJCAA Offensive Player of the Year proved last year that he could compete at the highest level of college football after transferring from Iowa Western C.C.

Last season, Waters threw for 2,469 yards while splitting snaps with the now-graduated Daniel Sams. With a completion average of 15.53 yards and passing efficiency of 156.8, Waters proved that he could be lethal with his delivery.

In his senior campaign, Waters will have to show how much he matured over the last season to help the Wildcats survive their brutal Big 12 schedule that includes trips to No. 4 Oklahoma and No. 10 Baylor. He'll have to show his arm strength in an offense that will surely air the ball out more often.

No. 5: Oklahoma QB Trevor Knight
Knight dominated Alabama in the 2014 Sugar Bowl, racking up 348 passing yards against one of the best defenses in the country. As a redshirt freshman who took a majority of his playing time away from senior Blake Bell, things can only get better for Knight as Bell transitions into playing tight end. Knight has several good options at receiver around him. He must utilize them all to prove that he isn't just a one-hit-wonder at quarterback.

Emilio Rivera is a sophomore in mass communications. Please send comments to sports@kstatecollegian.com.

By the Numbers: K-State vs. SFA

4

Team captains for K-State who are former walk-ons

Four of K-State's six team captains – Ryan Mueller, Jonathan Truman, B.J. Finney and Weston Hiebert – came to the school with no scholarships. Mueller and Finney have both earned national honors for their play.

6.15

Yards per carry Stephen F. Austin's senior running back Gus Johnson averaged in his past two seasons

Johnson is the heart of the the Lumberjacks offensive attack. The two-time All-Southland Conference running back had a slight dip in his production in 2013, but still ran for 1,061 yards and 11 touchdowns. The team's quarterback situation is a question mark for the first time in six seasons, which puts even more pressure on Johnson to have a great year.

11

Wins during each season that head coach Bill Snyder had the previous year's starting quarterback return since 1998

Senior quarterback Jake Waters will have statistics on his side as he starts the season. The last four returning starters at quarterback for the Wildcats have seen their yards per game jump by 30.6 and their completion percentage jump by 5 percent.

25

New players on the Lumberjack's 70-man roster

Stephen F. Austin fans will need to keep the roster nearby with 25 new players on the team. Fourteen of those 25 players made the two-deep roster. All this inexperience springs from a coaching change that occurred in the offseason. There is no shortage of new faces on the sidelines for the Lumberjacks.

49.3

Points per game allowed by Stephen F. Austin in 2013

The Lumberjacks' defense last season was anything but elite. In addition to giving up 49.3 points per game, they also surrendered 527.8 yards per game. They now have a new defensive coordinator and new scheme, making the 4-2-5 their base defense. The Wildcats' offense proved it was more than capable of scoring last season, averaging 33.2 points per game.

156.8

Pass efficiency of Jake Waters in 2013

Jake Waters was the second-most efficient quarterback in the Big 12 last season, behind Baylor's Bryce Petty. In the bowl game against Michigan, Waters was 21 for 27 and averaged 10 yards per pass. If he can pick up where he left off, K-State has a good chance of victory on Saturday.

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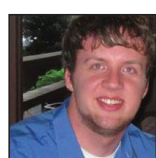
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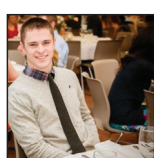
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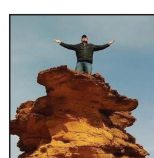
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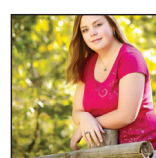
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